(c) what is Government's reaction in regard to those rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) M/s. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (NFCL) and Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL) have signed Term Sheets with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for purchase of gas. The price of gas quoted under the contract is subject to approval of the Government. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has been set up to decide the issues of gas pricing and commercial utilization of gas.

Subsidy on fertilizers

†2037. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will. the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of subsidy on the chemical fertilizers in the year 2007-2008 has been increased in comparison to that of last year;

(b) If so, the percentage of increase; and the amount of subsidy provided by Government so far;

(c) whether Government have identified the reasons of increasing the amount of subsidy this year; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The requirement of subsidy on chemical fertilizers in the year 2007-08 has increased in comparison to that of last year. The total expenditure of subsidy in 2006-07 was Rs. 25, 952 crore. In addition, there is a carry over liability of Rs. 8788.37 crore from 2006-07 to 2007-08. The total requirement of subsidy in 2007-08 is Rs. 47,979.45 crore, including the carryover liability of Rs. 8788.37 crore. The above increase in requirement of subsidy is due to increased consumption of fertilizers in the country and also due to the sharp increase in international prices of raw materials and finished fertilizers.

Shortage of fertilizers

2038. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are urging farmers to grow more food, especially pulses, in the upcoming kharif season, but major agrarian States like Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh have pointed out that the fertilizer crisis is seriously affecting pulses and other crops;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.